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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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10/812,426

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EXAMINER

GEORGE, TARA R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3733

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/812,426 | Applicant(s) CUTSHALL ET AL. | |
| | Examiner TARA R. GEORGE | Art Unit 3733 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. (US Pat. 7,048,740 B2).

White discloses a reamer comprising a body 420 including a peripheral surface defined by a radius extending from an origin, said body defining an axis of rotation thereof, said body defining an end surface operably connected to peripheral surface and, said body defining a relief surface spaced from the axis of rotation and operably connected to the peripheral surface, wherein a peripheral surface is a hemisphere, with its edges defined by the end surface and the relief surface (see Figure 25 below); a cutter 426 operably associated with said body; a driver connector 442 coupled to the end surface (see fig. 26); and a support structure 441 secured to the relief surface of said body (see Figure 25 below and col. 10 lines 63-67 and col. 11 lines 1-15), the support surface being spaced from the driver connector (via 440- see fig. 26).

White teaches the claimed invention except for the peripheral surface being a truncated hemisphere.

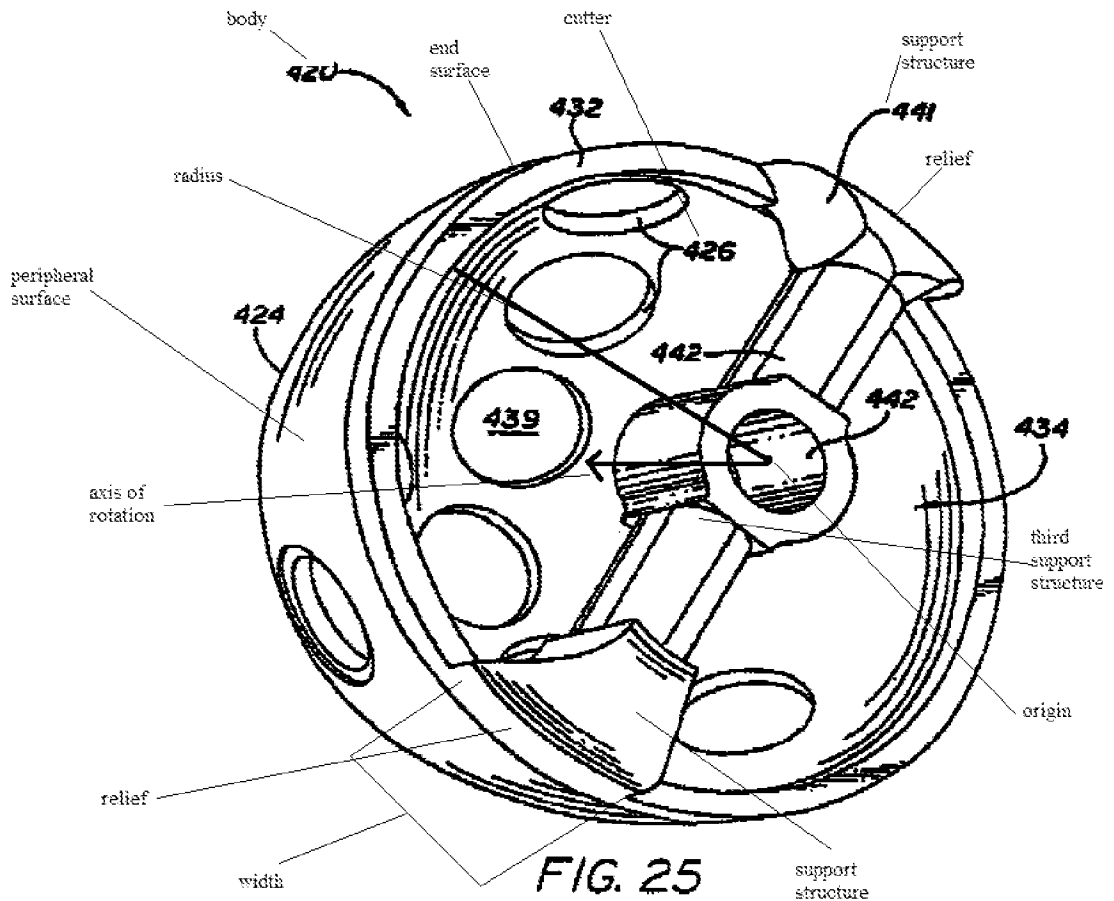
It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the peripheral surface of the body having the shape of a truncated hemisphere, in order to decrease the insertion profile. (In re Dailey and Eilers, 149 USPQ 47 (1966).).

The end surface of said body can be generally planar and perpendicular to the axis of rotation of said body; and the cutter and said body can be integral with each other (see Figure 25 below and col. 10 lines 63-67 and col. 11 lines 1-15). The body can also have a general form of a hollow, truncated hemisphere (see Figure 25 below and col. 10 lines 63-67), and the relief surface of said body can also be generally planar and parallel to the axis of rotation (see Figure 25 below). The body can also define a second relief surface spaced from the first mentioned relief surface (see Figure 25 below) wherein the second relief surface can define a width dimension therebetween, the width dimension being substantially smaller than twice the radius of said body (see Figure 25 below). The reamer can also further comprise second and third support structures secured to the second relief surface and secured to both first and second support structures for interconnecting said support structures, respectively. Both first and second support structures are spaced from the driver connector (via 440, see fig. 26). The reamer can also further comprise a driver (see col. 11 lines 7-15). The support structure can also be integral with said body (see col. 1 lines 13-15), and can also comprise one of a rib, a gusset, a bar, a tube, and a plate (see Figure 25 below and col. 11 lines 13-15). The support structure extends substantially along the relief surface of said body (see Figure 25 below). White further discloses a method comprising providing

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a cutting tool as disclosed above, cutting an incision in the patient, using the cutting tool to prepare a cavity for the prosthesis; and implanting the prosthesis (see col. 1 lines 20-32, col. 2 lines 44-51 and col. col. 6 lines 10-20).

With regards to claims 9, 10, 14, 23, 26 and 33 White discloses the claimed invention except for the first and second relief surfaces defining an included angle therebetween, wherein said angle can be less than 90 degrees, and the distance between the first and second relief surfaces is less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the radius of the body. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the reamer of White with the first and second relief surfaces defining an included angle therebetween, wherein said angle can be less than 90 degrees, and the distance between the first and second relief surfaces is less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the radius of the body, since applicant has not disclosed that such solve any stated problem or is anything more than one of numerous shapes or configurations a person ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing a relief surface. In re Dailey and Eilers, 149 USPQ 47 (1966).



Response to Arguments

As stated above, White teaches a driver connector spaced from the support surface. Note that the claim only requires said connector being “coupled” to the end

surface, as opposed to “directly coupled” to said surface. The rejection of claims 1-34 is maintained.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TARA R. GEORGE whose telephone number is (571)272-3402. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. R. G./
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/Eduardo C. Robert/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733